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[South Vietnam: Two senior South Vietnamese corps commanders differ in their assessments of the "Vietnamization" program.]

25X1 [] III Corps commander General Tri feels that the withdrawal of elements of the US 82nd Airborne Division from the Saigon area will not weaken the capital's defenses. He expects the enemy to test those defenses--which are now protected solely by South Vietnamese forces--in the near future, but he is confident of the South Vietnamese Army's ability to contain any attacks.]

[Tri is also encouraged by the over-all military situation in III Corps, particularly with the progress being made in the field of pacification. His optimism stems largely from the satisfactory performances to date of the newly appointed commanders of the South Vietnamese 5th and 18th divisions and the continued fine showing of the commander of forces in the Saigon area.]

25X1 [] I Corps commander General Lam continues to lament the withdrawal of the US 3rd Marine Division from Quang Tri Province. He seems convinced the withdrawal will have a detrimental effect on the South Vietnamese Army's ability to police adequately and defend the enemy-infested sector between Khe Sanh and the A Shau Valley.]

* * * *

25X1 Following several days of slightly stepped-up offensive action, enemy military activity on 6-7 October slipped back to the relatively low level of the past month.

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NATO - Arms Control: The reservations of the Allies about the US-Soviet draft treaty on seabeds arms control suggest strongly that they will press for a more effective voice in future disarmament negotiations.

In a meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) on 6 October some of the members indicated their displeasure at the limited time which had been afforded for study of the proposed agreement. Although no objection was made to the fact that the US intended to offer the document for consideration at Geneva on 7 October, none of the Allies was prepared to endorse the substance of the draft in its entirety.

Several of the Allies insisted that their endorsement of the draft submitted in Geneva jointly by the US and USSR was even more limited than that accorded to a US text proposed to them in September. On the earlier occasion the NAC gave the US a procedural "green light" in taking its offer to the Soviets. On 6 October the council restricted itself to "taking note" of the US intention to send the proposal to Geneva.

In concluding the council session, the Allies reserved the right to discuss the substance of the seabeds treaty more fully at NATO in the weeks to come, and, if necessary, at the UN. Those members of the Alliance who are also included in the disarmament conference can be expected to raise their objections in that forum as well.

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